

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A hardware upgrade operably connected to ~~for~~ a set top terminal, the hardware upgrade comprising:
- an interface to the set top terminal through which a subscriber selection and digital audio signals that represent audio programs are received from the set top terminal, wherein the set top terminal comprises a receiver that receives television program signals and the digital audio signals from a television program delivery system;
- audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber selection; and
- an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber selection.
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2. (Previously Cancelled)
3. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the audio signals are digital audio signals and the audio processing circuitry comprises a demodulator.
4. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the audio signals are digital audio signals and the audio processing circuitry comprises digital audio processing circuitry.
5. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 4 wherein the digital audio processing circuitry comprises a demultiplexor to select the selected audio signal.
6. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 4 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the digital audio processing circuitry comprises a decryptor.
7. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 4 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the digital audio processing circuitry comprises a decompressor.
8. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the output is one or more connectors to one or more speakers.
9. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the output is one or more connectors to a stereo.
10. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a microprocessor connected to the interface and processing circuitry, the microprocessor accepting the subscriber selections and controlling the audio processing circuitry.

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11. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.
 12. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 11 wherein the remote control unit comprises a display.
 13. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 12 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
 14. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 12 wherein the display comprises an LED device.
 15. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 12 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.
 16. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the interface to the terminal comprises a four-wire connector.
 17. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the interface to the terminal comprises a multipin connector.
 18. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 17 wherein the multipin connector is a multipin connector ranging from type DB9 to type DB25.
 19. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the interface to the terminal comprises a SCSI connector.
 20. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.
 21. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
 22. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the selected audio signals is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.
 23. (Currently Amended) A set top terminal comprising:
 - a receiver adapted to receive television program signals and digital audio signals from a television program delivery system, wherein the digital audio signals represent audio programs;
 - a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a first hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal, comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

24. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the terminal is capable of receiving audio/visual programs in addition to the audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by only an audio signal.

25. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.

26. (Original) The terminal of claim 25 wherein the remote control unit comprises a display.

27. (Original) The terminal of claim 26 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

28. (Original) The terminal of claim 26 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

29. (Original) The terminal of claim 26 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

30. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.

31. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the terminal has an expansion card slot, and the interface comprises at least one card connector adapted for use with the expansion card slot.

32. (Previously Amended) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a display that indicates when the first hardware upgrade is in use.

33. (Previously Amended) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the first hardware upgrade is remotely located from the terminal.
34. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
35. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive one or more data signals containing information about the audio programs.
36. (Previously Cancelled)
37. (Currently Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:
- a television program delivery system adapted to deliver television program signals and digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals represent the audio programs; and
 - a set top terminal operably connected to the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:
 - a receiver adapted to receive the television program signals and the digital audio signals from the television program delivery system;
 - a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and
 - a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal, comprising:
 - an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;
 - audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and
 - an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.
38. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system is a cable television program delivery system.

39. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises an operations center, the operations center transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

40. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises one or more headends, a particular one of the one or more headends transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

41. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system is a direct satellite broadcast system.

42. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more fiber optic connections to the terminal.

43. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more telephone line connections to the terminal.

44. (Previously Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving audio programs at a set top terminal capable of receiving audio/visual programs in addition to the audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs from a television program delivery system using a receiver in the set top terminal;

receiving subscriber selections from the set top terminal;

tuning to one of the digital audio signals representing the audio programs using a tuner based on one or more of the received subscriber selections, wherein the tuner resides on a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal;

processing the tuned digital audio signal; and

outputting the processed digital audio signal.

46. (Previously Cancelled)

47. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the step of processing comprises demodulating.

48. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the step of processing comprises demultiplexing to select the selected audio signal.

49. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the step of processing comprises decrypting.
50. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the step of processing comprises decompressing.
51. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:
playing the selected audio program on one or more speakers.
52. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:
playing the selected audio program on a stereo.
53. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the terminal comprises a microprocessor, the method further comprising the step of:
controlling the processing and selecting steps using the microprocessor.
54. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:
entering the subscriber selections on a remote control unit.
55. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:
displaying a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
56. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the display comprises an LED device.
57. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.
58. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the steps of:
generating one or more menus; and
receiving one or more of the subscriber selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generation capability.
59. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:
receiving a data signal that identifies the audio programs.
60. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.
61. (Previously Cancelled)
62. (Currently Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a hardware upgrade operably connected to a set top terminal, comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the receiver, that processes the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

63. (Previously Cancelled)

64. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demodulator.

65. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demultiplexor to select the selected audio signal.

66. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decryptor.

67. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decompressor.

68. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the output is one or more connectors to one or more speakers.

69. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the output is one or more connectors to a stereo.

70. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising a microprocessor connected to the subscriber interface and processing circuitry.

71. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.

72. (Original) The apparatus of claim 71 wherein the remote control unit comprises a display.
73. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
74. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the display comprises an LED device.
75. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.
76. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.
77. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive one or more data signals that contain information about the audio programs.
78. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.
79. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the apparatus is a set top terminal.
80. (Currently Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:
- means for receiving the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;
 - means for receiving subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection from a set top terminal;
 - means, connected to the means for receiving the audio/visual programs and the audio programs, for processing the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the means for processing comprises means for tuning to a selected audio program using a tuner based on the received subscriber audio program selection, wherein the tuner resides on a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal; and
 - means, connected to the means for processing, for outputting a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.
81. (Previously Cancelled)

82. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for processing comprises means for demodulating.
83. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for processing comprises means for demultiplexing the audio signals to select the selected audio signal.
84. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the means for processing comprises means for decrypting.
85. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the means for processing comprises means for decompressing.
86. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for outputting a selected audio signal comprises means for connecting to one or more speakers.
87. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for outputting a selected audio signal comprises means for connecting to a stereo.
88. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means, connected to the means for processing, for controlling the means for processing.
89. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means for remotely controlling the apparatus, the means for remotely controlling comprising means for entering the subscriber selections.
90. (Original) The apparatus of claim 89 wherein the means for remotely controlling comprises means for displaying.
91. (Original) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein the means for displaying comprises means for displaying a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
92. (Original) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LED device.
93. (Original) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LCD device.
94. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means for generating menus, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the means for generating menus.
95. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means for receiving a data signal that identifies the audio programs.

96. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.
97. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the apparatus is a set top terminal.
98. (Previously added) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising:
one or more additional hardware upgrades connected to the terminal.
99. (Previously added) The terminal of claim 98 wherein the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades are connected in a daisy-chain arrangement.
100. (Previously added) The terminal of claim 99 wherein each of the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades comprises a SCSI connector, and the daisy-chain arrangement is a SCSI daisy-chain arrangement.
101. (Previously added) The terminal of claim 98 wherein the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades are capable of operating simultaneously.
102. (Previously added) The terminal of claim 98 wherein at least one of the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an audio program reception hardware upgrade.
103. (Previously added) The terminal of claim 98 wherein at least one of the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an interactive hardware upgrade that receives interactive subscriber input and produces interactive output.
104. (Currently Amended) A cable television set top terminal comprising:
a receiver that receives television program signals and digital audio signals from a television program delivery system;
a first hardware upgrade connected to the set top terminal, wherein the first hardware upgrade is capable of receiving the digital audio signals and subscriber audio program selections from the set top terminal, wherein the first hardware upgrade further comprises:
audio processing circuitry, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected digital audio signal; and
one or more additional hardware upgrades connected to the set top terminal.
105. (Previously added) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades are connected in a daisy-chain arrangement.

106. (Previously added) The cable television set top terminal of claim 105 wherein each of the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades comprises a SCSI connector, and the daisy-chain arrangement is a SCSI daisy-chain arrangement.

107. (Previously added) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades are capable of operating simultaneously.

108. (Previously added) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein at least one of the first hardware upgrade or the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an audio program reception hardware upgrade.

109. (Previously added) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein at least one of the first hardware upgrade or the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an interactive hardware upgrade that receives interactive subscriber input and produces interactive output.

110. (Currently Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:

a television program delivery system adapted to deliver television program signals, including HDTV audio visual signals, and digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals represent the audio programs; and

a set top terminal operably connected to the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the television program signals and the digital audio signals from the television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal, comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

111. (Previously added) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system is a cable television program delivery system.

112. (Previously added) The system of claim 110 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises an operations center, the operations center transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

113. (Previously added) The system of claim 110 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises one or more headends, a particular one of the one or more headends transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

114. (Previously added) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system is a direct satellite broadcast system.

115. (Previously added) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more fiber optic connections to the terminal.

116. (Previously added) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more telephone line connections to the terminal.

117. (Previously Cancelled)

118. (Currently Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs, including HDTV programs, and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a hardware upgrade operably connected to a set top terminal, comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the receiver, that processes the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises

a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

119. (Previously Cancelled)

120. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demodulator.

121. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demultiplexor to select the selected audio signal.

122. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decryptor.

123. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decompressor.

124. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the output is one or more connectors to one or more speakers.

125. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the output is one or more connectors to a stereo.

126. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a microprocessor connected to the subscriber interface and processing circuitry.

127. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.

128. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a display.

129. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 128 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

130. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 128 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

131. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 128 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

132. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.

133. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive one or more data signals that contain information about the audio programs.

134. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.

135. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the apparatus is a set top terminal.

136. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising:
a display.

137. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 136 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

138. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 136 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

139. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 136 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

140. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising:
means for displaying.

141. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 140 wherein the means for displaying comprises means for displaying a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

142. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 140 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LED device.

143. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 140 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LCD device.

144. (Previously added) A hardware upgrade for a set top terminal, the hardware upgrade remotely located from the set top terminal, the hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which a subscriber selection and digital audio signals that represent audio programs are received from the set top terminal, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system, wherein the television

program delivery system is capable of simultaneously transmitting video signals that are unrelated to the digital audio signals;

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over audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the processing circuitry allows access to the digital audio signals while the unrelated video signals are viewed on a television; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selection.

145. (Previously added) The hardware upgrade of claim 144 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selection.
